

A CUBAN ENDEMIC: *HYSTERIONICA MARGINATA* (ASTERACEAE:  
ASTEREAE) RATHER THAN *ASTER GRISEBACHII*

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ABSTRACT

A species endemic to the western end of Cuba (the Pinar del Río area and Isle of Pines) has most recently been treated as *Aster grisebachii* but belongs in the genus *Hysterionica* as *H. marginata* (Grisebach) Gómez Maza (= *Haplopappus marginatus* Grisebach = *Aster grisebachii* Britton). Within *Hysterionica*, the Cuban species is closely related to *H. pinifolia*, *H. filiformis*, and *H. dianthifolia*. These species, as well as the other seven of the genus, are restricted to southeastern Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, and northern Argentina.

KEY WORDS: *Aster*, *Hysterionica*, Astereae, Asteraceae, Cuba

In the original description of *Haplopappus marginatus*, Grisebach (1866) noted that its white rays were anomalous in *Haplopappus*. Gómez de la Maza (1890) early recognized that *Hysterionica* was the correct generic identity of Grisebach's species, but his opinion has not been followed since then and only barely acknowledged. Britton (1914) provided no comments other than an abbreviated description of the species in his transfer of *H. marginatus* to *Aster*, but he did note the white rays and presumably was influenced in his taxonomic decision by their color. Most recently, Alain (1962) treated the species as *Aster grisebachii* and included *Hysterionica marginata* as a synonym, although he spelled the genus as "Hystrionica." The species was not included as *Aster* in recent taxonomic surveys of the genus (Jones 1980; Semple & Brouillet 1980), nor has it been mentioned in taxonomic treatments of *Hysterionica* (Cabrera 1946; Ariza E. 1980). I have found no comment past 1962 regarding its taxonomic position.

*Hysterionica marginata* (Grisebach) Gómez Maza, Anal. Soc. Española Hist. Nat. Madrid 19:272. 1890. [The publication citation in the Gray Card

Index is incorrect.]. BASIONYM: *Haplopappus marginatus* Grisebach, *Catalog. Pl. Cubens.* 149. 1866. *Aster grisebachii* Britton, *nom. nov.*, *Bull. Torrey Bot. Club* 41:14. 1914. Not *Aster marginatus* Kunth 1818.

*Aster grisebachii* Britton forma *angustissima* Marie-Victorin ex Alain, *Contrib. Ocas. Mus. Hist. Nat. Colegio "De La Salle"* 7:84. 1946.

*Hysterionica* comprises eleven species, which occur in southeastern Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, and northern Argentina, with *H. marginata* disjunct in western Cuba. The genus has been the subject of two taxonomic studies (Cabrera 1946; Ariza E. 1980), although the more recent included only a portion of the species. There appear to be two, relatively clearly recognizable species groups within the genus:

1. Plants perennial, with branching caudices; leaves filiform to linear-oblancoate, basally disposed; heads solitary on long scapes or merely bracteate stems. .... the "pinifolia group"
- 1) Plants annual or perennial, with a simple caudex; leaves obovate, the basal sometimes persistent but the cauline also prominent and little reduced upwards; heads in loose clusters on leafy stems. ....  
..... the "jasonioides group"

The Cuban species of *Hysterionica* is a member of the "pinifolia group", which includes *H. pinifolia* (Poir.) Baker, *H. filiformis* (Spreng.) Cabrera, and *H. dianthifolia* (Griseb.) Cabrera (including *H. pulvinata* Cabrera). The following abbreviated description characterizes *H. marginata*: taprooted with thick caudex branches, leaves mostly basally disposed, linear-oblancoate, crinkly-pilose with long-spreading cilia, heads solitary on long scapes, rays white (showing orange-resinous veins when dry), phyllaries narrowly triangular with a sharply acute apex, keeled, and with 1-3 longitudinal veins accompanied by orange resin ducts, glabrous, and achenes flat, with a double pappus. It grows in the sandy and gravelly pinelands in the Pinar del Río area and the Isle of Pines at the western end of Cuba.

*Hysterionica* is predominantly yellow-rayed, but there are three white-rayed species, which occur in both morphological groups: *H. marginata* and *H. dianthifolia* in the "pinifolia group" and *H. villosa* in the "jasonioides group." Whether white or yellow rays are primitive within the genus, however, there appear to have been at least two, evolutionarily independent changes of ray color. With *Conyza* L., *Hysterionica* appears to be one of the few genera of Astereae that is unequivocally closely related to the white-rayed *Erigeron* L., where yellow rays have originated independently several times in western North America (Nesom 1992).

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